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Andrae Rupprechter - new Austrian Minister of Agriculture

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Report Highlights:

This report includes a brief portrait of the new Austrian Minister of Agriculture, Andrae Rupprechter.

New Austrian Government

Austria's September 2013 parliamentary elections led, as expected, to a grand coalition between the social democrats (SPOe) and conservatives (OeVP). However, the December 2013 selection of Andrae Rupprechter (OeVP) as new Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Water Management and Environment, came as somewhat of a surprise.

Andrae Rupprechter – Bio

[Andrae Rupprechter](#) is a well-known expert in Austrian and European agricultural policy and until recently served as a high ranking bureaucrat in Brussels. The 52 year old is the eleventh child of Tyrolean farmers and is very proud of his mountain roots. He is an agronomist by education and started his career with the Austrian Farmers' Union, the "Bauernbund." In 1989, he joined the cabinet of agricultural minister Franz Fischler. As part of Fischler's inner circle, Rupprechter worked on EU and international trade issues and played important role in the Austria's EU accession negotiations. In 1995, Rupprechter became head of the EU Coordination and Planning Division within the Agriculture ministry and also the Austrian spokesman at the EU Special Committee on Agriculture.



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Between 1998 and 2002, Rupprechter was the Deputy Department Head ("Stellvertretender Sektionsleiter") for International and EU Affairs at the agricultural ministry and finally became Head of the Department for Agriculture and Nutrition ("Sektionsleiter").

In 2007, Andrae Rupprechter joined the European Civil Service as the Director for Rural Development at the General Secretariat of the EU Council. In 2013, he was appointed Director for Transparency at the Council Secretariat. In December 2013, he was elected Secretary General of the Regions but refrained from taking up this position in order to become Austrian Federal Minister of Agriculture, Forestry, Water Management and Environment.

Rupprechter is married and is the father of four children. He is a passionate hiker, skier and hunter.